

MARKET DRAYTON.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1914.

To the Urban District Council of Market
Drayton.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual
Report upon the health of your district.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Urban District of Market Drayton was constituted on 1st April, 1914. It is surrounded by the Drayton and Blore Heath Rural Districts, and has an area of 1,213 acres, comprising the parishes of Market Drayton and Little Drayton. The general elevation varies from about 230 to 350 feet above sea level. The subsoil is the red marl of the new red sandstone. The town of Market Drayton occupies the central and higher part of the district, the general fall of the ground being from north to south, and the natural drainage is to the River Tern which bounds the district on the east and south. An ancient and important market, it is the centre of a large and fertile agricultural district, with a weekly cattle auction, a monthly cheese fair, and an annual horse fair. There are two iron foundries, a large flour mill, a brewery, gas works, electric light and power works, a creamery, and a steam laundry. The public institutions are the Town Hall, Cottage Hospital, County Grammar School, and the National School. An Elementary School on the most modern lines has been recently erected at Little Drayton by the County Council. The Union Workhouse and the Joint Isolation Hospital are at Little Drayton.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Note.—These statistics are for the whole year—
as if the District had been separated from
Drayton Rural District on 1st January, in-
stead of 1st April, 1914.

POPULATION.—The estimated population at the middle of 1914 was 5,062. The natural increase of population (that is, the excess of the births over the deaths) in the year was 45. The area of the district is 1,213 acres. The total number of families or separate occupiers at the last census was 1,182. The average number of persons in each house was 4.2.

MARRIAGES.—The number of marriages registered during the year was 55.

BIRTHS.—116 births were registered in 1914. Of these 11 were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 23 per 1,000.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered was 81. This number includes 11 non-residents.

whose deaths have to be deducted; and one "resident" died outside the district, making the net total of 71, equal to a death-rate of 14 per 1,000 of the estimated population per annum.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Nine infants under one year of age died during the twelve months, giving an infant mortality rate of 77 per 1,000 births.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.—Of the 71 deaths, 33 were of persons of the age of 65 and upwards, and 10 under five years—the two extremes of life thus accounting for more than half the deaths. Ten deaths were certified as due to old age or senile decay—5 males and 5 females — the average age attained by the males being 77, by the females 85. Heart disease accounted for 7 deaths, cancer or malignant disease 5, bronchitis 6, influenza 5, cerebral hæmorrhage 5, pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption 3, pneumonia 2, child birth 3. There were 6 premature births and one death from drowning. Further details as to the causes of and the ages at death will be found in the official tables of the Local Government Board affixed to this report

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Twenty cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year—Twelve of diphtheria, one of scarlet fever, one of puerperal fever, and six of pulmonary and other forms of tuberculosis. Eleven of the diphtheria cases and one of scarlet fever were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital and all recovered. No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified, although its notification is now compulsory. Measles and whooping cough are not yet notifiable. Pulmonary tuberculosis (phthisis or consumption), and all other tuberculous diseases are now compulsorily notifiable. In all cases of infectious disease notified to me, printed instructions are at once sent to the occupiers of the infected houses stating the precautions to be taken in order to prevent the spread of infection and as to keeping children from school. Notices are also sent to the school teachers stating the periods children from infected houses are to be excluded from school. Where insanitary conditions have been found they have been reported to the Council, either by the Sanitary Inspector or myself. At the termination of all cases, and immediately after the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital, disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. At the Isolation Hospital a steam disinfectant is used for clothing, etc., before the patient is allowed to leave.

SCHOOLS CLOSED.—Little Drayton Schools were closed for a month in February on account of influenza, in June and July on account of measles, and again in October in consequence of an outbreak of diphtheria.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN (OUTSIDE LONDON) ORDER, 1910.—The cost of administration of antitoxin in all cases of diphtheria is provided by the Council.

VACCINATION IN 1914.—The following statistics of vaccination have been supplied by the Vaccination Officer:—Of the 116 children born and registered, 55 were successfully vaccinated, 6 died unvaccinated, 29 were not of age at the end of the year, 4 were removed from the district, the vaccination of 3 was postponed by

medical certificate, and 19 remain unvaccinated because their parents had conscientious objections to vaccination, and made statutory declarations to that effect.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—Building by-laws are in force. Under the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, 53 houses were inspected, one was found to be unfit for human habitation and a closing order made, in 39 defects were remedied without closing orders, 3 were found to be in good condition, and 10 are still under the consideration of the Sanitary Authority.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.—Lodging houses (3), bakehouses (14), and slaughter houses (6), are regularly inspected. There are 17 cow keepers and milk sellers on the register; 6 of these are milksellers only.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—This is regulated by by-laws, and the responsibility lies with the occupier of the house. A public system is about to be adopted for a portion of the town, and will no doubt be rapidly extended. The regular weekly removal of house refuse would tend to decrease infectious diseases. Refuse heaps are breeding places for flies, and it has now been proved that flies carry the germs of infectious diseases from house to house.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—At the end of 1912 there were 857 water closets, 22 pail closets, and 408 privies. The latter are gradually being converted; sixteen into water closets and seven into pail closets during the year. The water carriage system of disposal should be made compulsory wherever it is possible to connect with the sewer.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. — The upper strata of Little Drayton sewage filter has been washed and replaced, and the treatment of the sewage is more satisfactory. The sewage of Market Drayton is still untreated and continues to pollute the river from the old outfall. The sewage scheme is still in abeyance, and probably nothing will be done until the great war is ended.

WATER SUPPLY. — The Market Drayton Water Company supply Market Drayton and Little Drayton with water, excellent in quality and ample in quantity.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—The official tables of the Home Office, showing the administration of the Act in the district, are affixed.

NUISANCES, DAIRIES, COWSHED AND MILKSHOPS; HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—Three tables giving summaries of the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year are attached. The table relating to nuisances, etc., is printed below.

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Yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

12th May, 1915.

This district was constituted an Urban District, March 31st, and taken over May 14th. The following figures are taken from the 1st July, the date I commenced duties as Inspector of Nuisances to the Urban District of Market Drayton.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of sanitary work for the half-year ending 31st December, 1914, in the Market Drayton Urban Sanitary District:—

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary survey	351
Number of legal notices sent	20
Number of informal notices sent	88
Number of such notices complied with ...	82
Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices:	
Houses to be disinfected after infectious disease	14
Deficient or objectionable water supply ...	4
New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	60
New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	52
Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	28
Offensive accumulation of all kinds	9
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	1
Houses overcrowded	2
Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	14
Privies converted to water closets	16
Privies converted to pail closets	7
*Plans for new houses passed	6
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses	5
Lengths of new sewers laid	yards 150
* This does not include plans for alterations and additions.	
Proceedings before magistrates	0
Remarks.—The above figures do not include inspections of lodging houses, slaughter houses, and bakehouses, inspections under the Factory Acts, Canal Boats Acts, Petroleum Acts, and other work done as Sanitary Surveyor in connection with sewers and sewage disposal.	

A. GARRATT,

Inspector of Nuisances